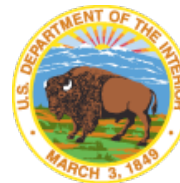


News Bulletin

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Review Status of 76 Pacific Region Species

Latest scientific and commercial information sought for update

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region is initiating 5-year reviews of 76 species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The species are found in Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

To assist in its reviews, the Service is opening a 60-day public comment period for the submission of scientific and commercial information produced since the original listing of each of these species. The public, government agencies, tribes, industry and the scientific and conservation communities are asked to submit information by April 12, 2016.

The species to be reviewed include the northern Idaho ground squirrel, Warner sucker, nine species of Hawaiian birds, six species of invertebrates, and 59 species of plants. A complete list of the species, their current listing classifications, and more information is available at <http://1.usa.gov/1opGVrz>.

Status reviews of all listed species are required by the ESA at least once every five years to determine whether a species' classification as threatened or endangered is still appropriate. If the best scientific and commercial data produced since the time of listing are not consistent with the current classification of any species, the Service will recommend a change in the species' federal classification. A species could be recommended for reclassification from endangered to threatened (downlisting), from threatened to endangered (uplisting), or for removal from the federal list of threatened and endangered species (delisting).

Any recommended change in classification would be subject to a separate rule-making process that includes opportunities for public review and comment. If no change in classification is recommended, the species would remain under its current listing status.

Information that is considered in a status review includes:

- Species biology, including but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics and genetics;
- Habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution and suitability;

- Conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species;
- Threat status and trends; and
- Other new information, data or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the list, and improved analytical methods.

For more information on the 5-year reviews and where to submit comments, search for “FWS–R1–ES–2015–N225” in the Federal Register at www.federalregister.gov. More information on each of the species can be found at www.fws.gov/endangered/species/index.html.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/pacific, or connect with us through facebook.com/USFWSPacific, twitter.com/USFWSPacific/, tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific, flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/ and youtube.com/user/USFWS

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